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The Year



INSIDE
Creel-Grantham
Plan June 24th
Wedding



INSIDE
Jarod Cole
Lashley
Celebrates
1st Birthday



INSIDE
EHS Band Day
2000 set For
Saturday
April 15



The Elba Clipper

Volume 183, Number 43

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama Thursday, April 6, 2000

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Warning siren interrupts New Brockton's Town Council's monthly meeting

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The monthly meeting of the New Brockton Town Council had an abrupt recess when the early warning siren sounded Monday night. Council members had been in session about fifteen minutes when a report of a possible tornado near the Ino Community southwest of New Brockton caused the siren to be activated.

Several members of the council, along with members of the media, took shelter in the rear of town hall near the old holding cell. Acting Police Chief Jerry Gilbert manned the radios and telephones assisted by members of the council. Other police officers on duty were dispatched to check the town and look for any approaching tornado. For about twenty minutes, everyone was "on guard."

It was evident by the many phone calls to the police station that the newly installed siren was heard by many residents of the town.

After the immediate threat had passed (no tornado came to town), things settled back down, and the council resumed its meeting.

The council meeting preliminaries had already been dispensed prior to the recess so the council got down to business.

Mayor Britt Lee told council members that it had been established (is legal) that the town's animal control officer, Tony Bloodsworth, can issue non-traffic tickets in connection with violations of the town's leash law.

In the past, police officers have not always been available when the need arose for a citation to be issued.

The mayor stated that Bloodsworth is the only person who will be allowed to do this - issue citations - under supervision of Chief Gilbert.

Mayor Lee reported to the council that a street light had been installed on Ainsley Street at a cost of \$34.80 per year. A resident had requested in an earlier meeting that this light be installed and told the council that he would pay the cost if necessary.

"I think personally that it is a safety issue for the town in having it [the light] there," said Councilman Ron McMonagle. "I think it is our obligation for the safety of not only him [the resident], but also the other citizens of the community. It benefits all, so I believe the town ought to pick up the tab."

After a brief discussion, council members voted to pay the expense of the light.

Several items of "unfinished business" were addressed by the council. Mr. James Haney, a resident of Co. Rd. 272 in the city limits, was told by Mayor Lee that he had contacted the county engineer concerning the road elevation in front of his home. Mr. Haney had brought the problem to the attention of the council at the last meeting.

The mayor assured Haney that he and the engineer, who is aware of the problem, would make every effort to straighten it out in the near future - hopefully before the next council meeting.

Both Mayor Lee and City Clerk Annette Williams, told council members that they had been informed that the truck ordered for the street department would not be delivered until the first of May.

Council members expressed concern as to whether or not the present truck would last until the new one arrived.

"It's still holding together," Bloodsworth told the council. "Maybe it'll hold out."

Mayor Lee assured the council that he would contact the dealer, who says that this is a "Ford problem," and tell them that, "We've got to have it by May 1st."

The council formally approved the grant application for housing rehab.

"This is a grant that we had tried to get this year but failed to do so," said Mayor Lee. "This coming year matching funds are not near as much and we stand a better chance to get the grant not only for housing rehab but can be tied into drainage work as well. It will be a better grant for us if we can get it."

The grading points on the grant applications should be more favorable toward New Brockton than in the past year, said the mayor.

In approving the monthly bills totaling \$34,428.42 for payment, the council reviewed the town's financial status. A six-month budget comparison with last year's prepared by Mrs. Williams was examined by council members.

"Our biggest downfall is in income - revenue in sales and use taxes," commented Mayor Lee. "Otherwise, we're in pretty good shape."

Mrs. Williams commented, "Although the income in revenue is down, the expenses are also lower than they were at this time last year."

It was noted that immediately following the flood of '98 in Elba, sales tax revenue increased but since the recovery period, there has been a steady decrease and that has recently leveled off to the present income. Since Chief Gilbert was busy because of the storm warning, Councilman McMonagle gave the report of the police department's activity for the past month.

Officers investigated a total of 33 incidents including three traffic accidents and issued 32 traffic citations. The fire department responded to two grass fires and one vehicle fire. Animal control picked up eight dogs and transported them to the dog pound in Elba.

Finally, McMonagle reported that Michael Hines had joined the New Brockton Police Department.

"Hines is fully trained and is from New Brockton," said McMonagle. "I think he is going to serve this community very well - I'm proud to say that he is the newest member of our police force."

Alabama's legendary "Big" Ruby Folsom Ellis Austin dies at age 87

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

A very colorful part of Alabama politics ceased to be last Saturday, April 1, 2000 when Ruby Folsom Ellis Austin died in an Enterprise Nursing Home. She was 87 years old.

Mrs. Austin, or "Big Ruby" (she was tall in stature - almost 6 feet tall) as she was known by her close friends, became an integral part of politics in Alabama when her brother, James E. "Big Jim" Folsom, was elected governor in 1947.

When Big Jim moved into the governor's mansion in Montgomery, Mrs. Ruby moved with him to serve as the state's first lady. Gov. Folsom's wife had died earlier and Mrs. Ruby had gone to Cullman, the Governor's home prior to the election, to look after his small children.

Mrs. Ruby was not just a figurehead in the governor's mansion, she became known as one who could get things done. She became comfortable among the state's elite movers and shakers at that time.

Her tenure as first lady ended when Big Jim married Jamelle Moore, but she continued to take an active part in the state politics. Nor did her connection to the governor's office end when her brother was no longer governor.

Mrs. Ruby's daughter, Cornelia, married Governor George C. Wallace after his first wife, Lurleen, died and she was once again known to frequent the governor's mansion.

She again had "connections" to the governor's mansion when Big Jim's son, "Little Jim" served as governor in the 90's.

Mrs. Ruby's son, Charles Ellis, who resides in Elba, said his mother cared about people and didn't like to see anyone taken advantage of by someone else.

Ellis made no bones about it, "Mother liked the media and all the attention that went with the position she held while in Montgomery.



Ruby Folsom Ellis Austin

She also like to get things done her way - as long as things were done Ruby's way, everything was okay."

Ellis hoped the statement often made by his mother that "She wanted to be buried in Elba, but she didn't want to be buried in Elba before she died" wasn't misunderstood. "Mother loved Elba," said Ellis. "She had made many friends while in Montgomery and in other places too. And, she was never one to shun the nightlife. She loved being around her friends."

Mrs. Ruby was not happy when her failing health made it necessary for her to move closer by her relatives in order for them to care for her. The move into the Enterprise Nursing Home was not one that she liked.

"Mother's will was a strong one and she truly loved life," said Ellis.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ruby were held on Monday at Hayes Funeral Home Chapel in Elba, and she was buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

She will truly be missed but not forgotten!



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS...On Monday, April 3, Mayor James Grimes signed a proclamation declaring the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Elba. The proclamation recognized that sexual assault is a wide ranging social problem which affects women, children and society as a whole. The proclamation also recognized that it is battered and sexually abused women themselves who have been in the forefront of efforts to bring about peace and equality. Mayor Grimes, by signing the proclamation, encouraged all citizens to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs sponsored by The House of Ruth, Inc., to work toward the elimination of personal and institutional violence against women. Present for the signing of the proclamation were: (from left to right sitting) Tanya Wambles, victims advocate for Coffee and Pike counties; Mayor James Grimes; Judy Crawley, chairperson of Endeavors - Coffee County Task Force Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and executive director of Family Services at the Coffee County Health Department; (from left to right standing) Ivy Capps, sexual assault education coordinator; and Marcia Williams, intern at The House of Ruth.

POLITICAL OFFICE QUALIFIERS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Circuit Judge - Place One
Thomas E. Head (Incumbent)

District Judge:
Steven E. Blair (Incumbent)

Circuit Clerk:
Mickey Courts
Stanley H. Watson
Doug Donaldson

Probate Judge:
Gary Watson
Gladys Yelverton

Commissioner Dist. One:
Linda Westbrook (Incumbent)

Commissioner Dist. Two:
Starlin Jinright

Commissioner Dist. Three:
Robert Stephens (Incumbent)

Commissioner Dist. Four:
Doug Dalrymple (Incumbent)

Commissioner Dist. Five:
Bernest Brooks (Incumbent)

Winzell Gray
County BOE Dist. 3
Steve Hunko
Constable Beat 7
Robert Prieachers (Incumbent)
Constable Beat 8

QUALIFYING DEADLINE April 7, 2000

Terry Wilkins (Incumbent)
Constable Beat 15
Howard Lee
William Ted Rugg

REPUBLICAN PARTY
Commissioner Dist. Two:
Kayto Lewis (Incumbent)

Commissioner Dist. Six:
Randy Lunford
James W. Thompson

Commissioner Dist. Seven:
Tom Grimsley (Incumbent)

County BOE Dist. 2:
Annette Griswold

Area law enforcement officials looking for two missing youths

Local law enforcement agencies are asking for the public's help in locating two area teenagers.

In a Tuesday (April 4) press release, Bruce Devane, Chief Investigator with the 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's office, made the following statements and gave a physical description of the two children.



David Adam Lamb, age 14, along with his sister, Ashley Tanya Lamb, age 15, have been missing since Thursday afternoon, March 30, 2000. The minors' parents filed a missing persons report shortly after their disappearance.

The two children were last seen walking across a field located behind their residence on Coffee County Road 408. The Lamb residence is located in the Basin Community south of Elba.

David Lamb is described as follows: white male, date of birth: March 14, 1986, fair complexion, reddish brown hair, blue eyes, approximately 5'4" in height, weighing approximately 95 pounds and further describes as being skinny. He is a student at the Kinston High School.



Ashley Lamb is described as follows: white female, date of birth: October 1, 1984, tanned complexion, blond shoulder length hair, multi-colored eyes, approximately 5'2" in height, weighing approximately 100 pounds. She is also a student at Kinston High School.

Authorities believe at this point, the two minors have run away from home after facing some minor adolescent problems. As in any investigation, nothing has been ruled out but authorities, at this time, do not suspect foul play.

There is a strong belief that the two youngsters may be within a relatively close proximity of their community at this time. A sighting reported late Monday afternoon, April 3, is presently being checked out at a location in southwest Coffee County.

Anyone having any information is encouraged and asked to contact the investigative division of the District Attorney's office at (334)347-1147, the Coffee County Sheriff's Department at (334)894-5535, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (case manager Charles Pickett) at 1-877-446-2632 ext. 6214, or any law enforcement agency.

Area Happenings

COMMISSION MEETING The Coffee County Commission will hold its bi-monthly meeting Monday, April 10, 2000, at 9 a.m. in the Community Room located in the County Complex in New Brockton, Ala.

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST The Elba Chamber of Commerce will host a Legislative Breakfast on Friday, April 14, at 7 a.m. at Elba First Baptist Church. For more information, call the chamber office at 897-3125.

BAND DAY 2000 Elba Band Boosters will sponsor their annual Band Day on the Courthouse Square on Saturday, April 15, beginning at 9 a.m. Many activities are planned, including a variety of live entertainment, arts and crafts, jail for bail, barbecue, a live remote broadcast from WZTZ, Bingo, face painting, concessions, and an auction. All proceeds from Band Day 2000 will benefit the band in the purchase of much needed items to continue the proud tradition of a top notch high school band.

COUNTY BOE MEETING The Coffee County Board of Education will hold its monthly meeting, Thursday, April 20, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of the Central Office located in Elba.

COFFEE COUNTY PAGEANTS Coffee County Pageants have been set for April 30 in the Elba High School auditorium. For more information, please call Teresa Dutton at 347-2848 or Karen Patrick at 347-9667.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
With Ferrin Cox

The post office folks were in town last week reviewing the sites offered as the future home of the local mailman (or woman). They have made no official announcements as to where their favored locations will be, but have promised something soon we understand. Mayor James Grimes said the man from Atlanta indicated he would be placing something in the newspaper soon and this time there will be more than one option advertised, in case their first choice again creates more problems than it eliminates.

It was with mixed emotions last week as the folks in the Clipper office responded to complaints from the people on the Jack mail route about not getting their paper on Thursday as usual. First there was concern about where the papers actually went and secondly there was a bit of flattery knowing our subscribers really missed the paper when it didn't get there on time. The papers probably rode some post office truck from Wednesday afternoon until they finally got to Jack on Friday, but at least they did get there only a day late. Many of our readers who are out of state often marvel that they get several of our weekly papers the same day or get one edition three weeks old AFTER they got the most recent issue. We apologize to our readers for this and hope those in charge of solving such postal problems can one day find - and solve the problem. The good Lord knows we have filed enough verbal and formal complaints on this matter.

Ruby Folsom Austin died Friday night in an Enterprise Nursing Home. This could easily be called the end of an era as "Big Ruby" was the last of her generation of a large family which has had a lasting impact on Coffee County and the State of Alabama. One of the two sisters of the late James E. "Big Jim" Folsom, Ruby was always actively involved in his politics, even serving almost a year as first lady in 1947 while Governor Folsom was the widowed leader of Alabama and before he remarried. Almost anyone who knew her, or even knew of her, has their favorite "Big Ruby story" as she was very visible, colorfully outspoken and uninhibited. Some were probably at times offended at Miss Ruby's comments, but they were never unsure of her position on the subject at hand, a trait she shared with many of her siblings. An active involvement on the political scene gave her a wealth of historic knowledge which she unselfishly shared with any who were interested. It is a bit unsettling to realize that she has passed, along with Ruby and many others of those who fashioned it.

Our area dodged the bullet again this week when the tornado warnings started sounding all across the South. The news was loaded with reports of deaths and extensive damage caused by the harsh weather which swept across the southern part of the United States. The sound of the emergency sirens going off in Elba on Monday evening caused some concern, but thankfully there was more confusion than actual damage after a reported tornado sitting in the southern part of Coffee County.

The death toll in Uganda from the religious cult activities has climbed to almost 1000, making it the largest such disaster in history. Actually, the true total may be a lot higher, but officials have decided to just top digging in the area, as they can only count and rebury the victims. There is some belief now that the leaders of the group disappeared after the church fire which got the world's attention, but until they are caught and questioned, the many why questions will remain.

We have two opinions which are directly opposed to those of the leaders of that Uganda cult mentioned above. First, we place children on a pedestal and don't consider them as evil, nor the results of evil . . . at least not until they are exposed to the actions and ideas of us adults. Secondly, we are not predicting an end to the world and have no plans to help things along. Our plan is to leave those timetables in the hands of God and fully expect Him to do a far better job than any human so far has shown the ability to do.

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USPS 171-080

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Alabama Counties - \$19 per year - including tax
6 months - \$5
Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$5

GUEST EDITORIAL

Where Is God's Creation Headed?

Fred Wood • Church Layman & Retired Voc. Ag. Teacher

It looks like man has grabbed the world by the tail and is going his own selfish way thinking he is sufficient within himself. In this technological age people tend to think there is no limit to what man can do without any outside help. They fail to realize that God is the source of all creation and wisdom. He has helped man to build these technical things hoping they will be used for his honor and glory to spread the gospel in all the world. Billy Graham, Robert Shuler, and others are using these modern facilities in God's service in a wonderful way.

but they are also being misused. Worldly pleasures, violence, and corruption are everywhere much like they were in Noah's day when he and his three sons were faithful to God. You say, "oh yes, but God doesn't speak to us today." "Oh yes he does. We just don't listen." The people of that day made all kinds of fun of Noah and his sons for building such a tremendous boat on dry land away from the sea. Noah warned the sinful people of what was going to happen if they did not change and become saved. They

would not listen, but when the floods began they ran to the ark for safety but the doors were closed. The question we need to ask ourselves is, are we ready for the Judgment Day? It could be sooner than we think. How much longer is God going to allow unborn babies to be murdered by the millions? (Forty million in the U.S. since abortions were legalized and now baby body parts are being sold for research.) As for God's love for children he said, "Of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

We need to pray for a spiritual renewal everywhere and return to God's word by his love, wisdom, and peace that passes all understanding. Being saved (heaven found) for eternity is the greatest accomplishment a person can make in his or her lifetime. So let us be about our Father's business, that his creation will be headed in the right direction.

TSU Hosts Scholarship Day



Elba High School student Shanna Tillis met with John W. Schmidt, vice president for student affairs, at the first Leadership Scholarship Day held March 3 at Troy State University. Tillis was among more than 125 high school students attending the day's event which consisted of a luncheon, campus tour and scholarship interviews. Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,700 per year were awarded.



Students from Zion Chapel High met with John W. Schmidt, vice president for student affairs, at the first Leadership Scholarship Day held March 3 at Troy State University. Sponsored by the Office of Admissions, the event was designed to bring leadership scholarship applicants to TSU for a luncheon, campus tour and scholarship interviews. More than 125 high school students attended Leadership Scholarship Day, and scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,700 per year were awarded. Zion Chapel High School students captured above with Schmidt are (from left to right): Kayla Eddins, John W. Schmidt, Tara Grant and Stacey Cape.

NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE
Political candidates wishing to make their news announcement in The Elba Clipper should do so on or before NOON on TUESDAY, MAY 15th. The Clipper reserves the right to editor lengthy announcements



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From The House...

by Congressman Terry Everett

House Votes to End Penalty on Working Seniors

Hopefully, an unfair barrier to seniors will soon be lifted as the U.S. House voted last week to eliminate the seniors' "earnings limit."

For millions of Americans who retire each year, the chance to finally slow down and relax after working long hours for decades is much anticipated. However, many seniors choose to work after retirement either out of necessity or to stay active.

It's unfortunate that our government currently discourages such work after retirement by setting limits on how much extra income a

senior can earn. If a senior goes over the income limit, they lose part of their Social Security benefits.

Right now, the tax code penalizes seniors who choose to keep working. Over 800,000 seniors today, including 11,100 Alabamians, lose part or all of their Social Security benefits because of the Social Security earnings limit.

The limit cuts or entirely eliminates Social Security benefits for working seniors whose yearly incomes exceed \$17,000. In 2000, working seniors between the ages of 65 and 69 will lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$3 in earnings they bring in over the

limit.

The Social Security earnings limit was created during the Great Depression when jobs were scarce. It was seen as a means to encourage older workers to leave the workforce so more jobs would become available to younger unemployed workers.

While such policy might have made sense in those extreme times some 70 years ago, they no longer hold relevance. Truth is, working seniors are an important part of our national economy. They should be encouraged to continue working and not be penalized for it.

Last week, the House passed the Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act (HR 5). This vital legislation would repeal the Social Security earnings limit affecting income earned after December 31, 1999.

For example, beginning this year, seniors age 65 and older would be able to work and earn unlimited income without losing any Social Security benefits.

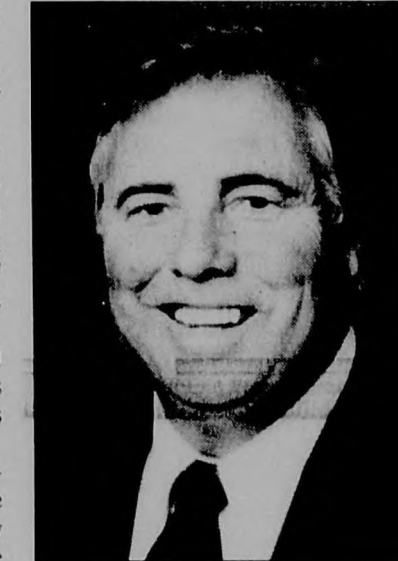
Actions from the Social Security Administration have indicated that the long-term cost of the earnings limit repeal on the Social Security Trust Fund would be negligible. The lifting of the earnings limit would not threaten the long term solvency of Social Security and accordingly HR 5 has been endorsed by all the nation's major senior advocacy groups, including the AARP and 60 Plus.

Last July, I was a cosponsor of HR 5, and on March first, I was pleased to join my colleagues in the House in approving this much needed legislation by a vote of 422 to 0. The earnings limit repeal now goes to the U.S. Senate before proceeding to the President's desk.

Given its strong support in the House, chances are good this year for swift passage of the Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act. President Clinton has also indicated that he would sign it. He should because America's seniors do not deserve to be penalized for their hard work.

Eddie Vaughan
with National Security.

Mike Hall joins staff of The Peoples Bank of Coffee County



Mike Hall

Doris Matthews, president and CEO of The Peoples Bank of Coffee County, is pleased to announce that Mike Hall has joined the staff of The Peoples Bank. Having successfully completed his general securities training and recently passed his Series 7 exam, Hall will oversee brokerage and investment operations through PRIMEVEST Financial Services at The Peoples Bank.

Hall's responsibilities will include selling mutual funds, stocks and bonds, as well as other aspects of financial planning.

A graduate of Troy State University, Hall has advanced degree courses at Troy State University, Dothan, and course study in the doctoral program at the University of Alabama. His background is in education, having held the positions of teacher, coach, assistant principal and most recently, principal in the Troy City School System. Hall is a member of the Elba Rotary Club, is active in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and attends the First Baptist Church of Troy. He and his wife, Gloria, have two daughters, Jennifer and Lauren.

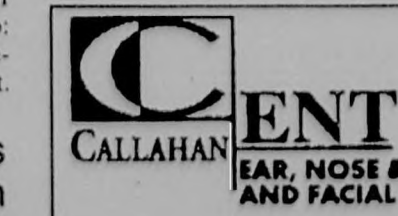
Is your medication too expensive for your budget

Is your medication too expensive for your budget? If so, information in a new booklet might help.

Financial Assistance Network in Washington, D.C. has just published a 32 page booklet, "2000 Annual Directory of Free & Low Cost Prescription Drug Programs." The recently updated booklet gives information on how and where to get free and low cost prescription drugs.

Many major drug companies provide free or low cost medication, but rarely, if ever publicize the programs," says Paul Navestad, founder of Financial Assistance Network. "We've published an A to Z listing of all the drugs that are available to certain qualified groups for free or at very low cost directly from the manufacturer."

Consumers can receive a copy by sending \$5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Financial Assistance Network, Prescription Drug Booklet Offer, Dept.



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AREA DEATHS

RUBY FOLSOM AUSTIN

Mrs. Ruby Folsom Austin, age 87, of 2645 Taylor Mill Road, Elba, Ala., died April 1, 2000 at the Enterprise Nursing Home.

Mrs. Austin served as the official hostess for the State of Alabama for her brother Former Governor James E. "Big Jim" Folsom during 1947.

Funeral services were held April 3, 2000 in the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Mart Gray and Dr. Robert Paul officiating. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery of Elba, with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Mrs. Austin was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Burton Forsyth Austin of Montgomery, a sister and five brothers.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Charles G. and Betty Joyce Ellis, Elba; a daughter, Cornelia Ellis Wallace, Winter Haven, Fla.; a granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Amy Elizabeth and Randy Paine, Sarasota, Fla.; five grandsons and four granddaughters-in-law, Charles Ross Ellis, Orange Beach, Ala.; Gavin Folsom and Nancy Ellis.

Cullman, Ala., John Andrew IV and Kim Snively, Winter Haven, Fla.; James Aubrey and Jeanne Snively, Lake Placid, Fla.; Joshua Austin and Heather Snively, Winter Haven, Fla.; and nine great-grandchildren.

LEVI SIMMONS JR.

Mr. Levi Simmons Jr., born July 18, 1968 in Jamaica, N.Y., died March 28, 2000.

Funeral services were held April 2, 2000 at Springfield Baptist Church in New Brockton with Rev. FL Flowers officiating. Burial followed in the John Chapel AME Cemetery in Enterprise with Hammond Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Survivors include his wife, Bernadine Graham; his parents, Levi and Evon Simmons; two daughters, Latrice West and Renee King; a brother, Jason (Kaesa) Simmons; a sister, Tracy (Rodrick) Leonard; two step-children, Ta-Sheba Johnson and Trivon Graham; two step-grandchildren, Sade and Shikari Johnson; his in-laws, J.D. (Alice) Faye Snow; a sister and brother-in-law, Carolyn McCray; his daughters-in-law, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

two daughters: Santisha and Kanisha; his parents: Mr. and Mrs. James Fleming; his mother-in-law, Hazel Ingram; his siblings, James Fleming (Theresa), Angela Seals (Samuel), Kummel Fleming, Chana Austin (Cecil); a sister-in-law, Terri White Fleming; his grandmother, Sarah Vassie Donald; and several other relatives.

JOHN D. THOMAS

Mr. John D. Thomas, born Aug. 1, 1922 in Coffee County, died recently.

Funeral services were held April 1, 2000 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Elba with Rev. Darrell Caldwell officiating. Burial followed with Coleman Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Survivors include six sons: John L., L.C., Roy C., David, William and Darrell Thomas; two daughters: Mary (Oliver J.) Overall and Jeanleann Johnson; two sisters: Mary Lizzie Hollis and Emma Jane Dorsey; three sisters-in-law: Bertha Reid, Ruth Dubose, Curly Thomas; one son-in-law, Lonnie McCray; his daughters-in-law, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CARD OF THANKS

BOOTHIE FAMILY

The family of Wiley Willard Boothie would like to thank everyone for all the calls, cards, flowers and words of comfort shown to us during the loss of a beloved father and husband.

May God Bless You.
Katherine Boothie & Children & Grandchildren

4/6p.d.

KILCREASE FAMILY

The family of Linda Kilcrease would like to express our sincere thanks for all of the food, flowers, cards, visits, thoughts, and words of encouragement during our recent loss. We would especially like to thank Dr. Cochran, the Wiregrass Hospice, friends and family members who have helped and supported us during the illness of our loved one.

The Kilcrease Family

4/6p.d.

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LIFESTYLES

Creel-Grantham to be united in marriage Saturday, June 24th



Miss Creel & Mr. Grantham

Mrs. Peggy Creel of Elba announces the engagement and forthcoming marriage of her daughter, Leslie Brooke Creel, to Larry Keith Grantham Jr., son of Mr. Larry Grantham of Elba. Miss Creel is also the daughter of the late Mr. Melton Creel of Elba.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. Essie Brooks and the late Mr. Woodrow Brooks of Crestview, Fla.

She is a 1994 graduate of Elba High School and will receive her Bachelor of Science degree in early childhood education from Troy State University in May of 2000. She was a member of Chi Omega Social Sorority.

The future groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jacobs and Mr. and Mrs. William Grantham, all of Elba.

He is a 1994 graduate of Elba High School and currently works with a construction company in Troy.

The wedding will be an event of June 24, 2000 at four o'clock in the evening at Westside Baptist Church in Elba. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall of the church.

No local invitations will be sent. All friends and family are invited.

Wiregrass United Way venture grants available

The Wiregrass United Way has announced the availability of year 2000 Venture Grants for organizations and agencies serving residents in Coffee, Dale, Geneva and Henry counties.

Wiregrass United Way venture grants are one-time grants for special expenditures not included in the regular budget. Equipment and program supplies are examples of such expenditures. Any not-for-profit agency or organization, or government entity with Coffee, Dale, Geneva or Henry County cit-

izen's participation may be eligible to apply.

The volunteer Allocations Committee for Coffee, Dale, Geneva and Henry counties will award venture grants. Applications will be received and considered in April with decisions to be made in May. Award decisions will be announced in June. Actual distribution of venture grants will not begin until July.

Agencies and organizations interested in applying may obtain the application packet by contact-

ing Connie Pate, area manager for Coffee and Geneva counties, at the Wiregrass United Way office in Enterprise at 391-1072; Danny Tarter, area manager for Dale County, at the Wiregrass United Way office in Ozark at 774-3319; or Sam Jones, allocations committee chair for Henry County, at the Wiregrass United Way office in Dothan at 792-9661. Applications will be accepted through Friday, April 28.

Mayfest 2000 to be held in Atmore

Attention Area artist! Join us for Mayfest 2000, a celebration of spring at Tom Byne Park, Atmore, AL, on Saturday, May 6. This festival, now in its 26th year, is coordinated by the Atmore Area Chamber. Events for the day include an art

and crafts show, entertainment, beautiful baby contest, sports tournaments and great food. The Williams Station train ride, a children's carnival and other activities will delight children of all ages. Festival hours are from 9:00 A.M. until

5:00 P.M. Admission is free.

We are still accepting arts and crafts applications at \$45 a space. Call the Atmore Chamber of Commerce at (334)368-3305 for more information.

Girls State coming to TSU for the first time June 4-9

Troy State University will make Alabama history June 4-9 by playing host to Girls State, an annual citizenship training conference for almost 400 high school juniors from across the state.

This year marks the first time in its 50-year history that Girls State will be held outside Montgomery. Troy State University is only the second school to ever play host to the event, according to Stacy Fountain, director.

"We decided to bid out Girls State this year and Troy State had the best proposal," Fountain said.

"We are impressed with the facilities at the university and we think the young women will have an excellent experience in Troy."

Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Girls State uses a mock legislature format to teach young women about civics and citizenship. Participants are divided into cities and counties and elect local officials. They also serve as the senators and representatives, debating bills and proposing solutions to problems facing elected officials. The highlight of the week is the election of a governor, and

hearing prominent speakers.

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor of the Troy State University System, said the announcement is exciting news for TSU. "We are well aware of the outstanding track record of Girls State," Dr. Hawkins said. "Girls State offers some of the best leadership training available for high school students. What these young women learn about citizenship and responsibility from Girls State will prepare them well for whatever career paths they choose."

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PIGGY WIGGLY TEA BAGS 2/\$3.00 100 CT. PKG.	CRINKLE CUT PIGGY WIGGLY POTATOES 99¢ 3 LB. BAG	SOLID SUAVE DEODORANT \$1.19 1.75 OZ. SIZE	ASSORTED PIGGY WIGGLY PIZZAS 59¢ EACH

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26th Annual Piney Woods Festival planned for April 15th & 16th

The Coffee County Arts Alliance presents the 26th Annual Piney Woods Arts Festival on Saturday and Sunday, April 15 and 16. The festival will be on the grounds of Enterprise State Junior College from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Original crafts, special displays, food and entertainment will provide something for everyone. For the children, there will be a fun center, a dunking booth and a tiny tots train ride.

"Please come and join us on the 15th and 16th for a variety of fun experiences. We will have delicious food, entertainment featuring local talent, and the very best arts & crafts," says Freda Richey, chairman, Piney Woods.

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1 Mile Kid's Classic**

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Write: P. O. Box 310
Fort Deposit, AL 36032
or Call 334-227-8580
after 5 p.m.

LIFESTYLES

Miss Pope & Mr. Gaston plan May wedding



Miss Tammy Lane Pope

Ms. Louise Simmons Pope announces the engagement and forthcoming marriage of her daughter, Tammy Lane Pope, to Mr. John Drew Gaston, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Allison Gaston.

The bride is also the daughter of the late Pete Pope of Greenville.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Hub Simmons of Elba and the late Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Pope of Greenville.

She is a 1998 graduate of Auburn University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in family and child development. She was a member of the Gamma Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta Social Sorority and is currently employed in Montgomery.

The future groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Travis Mason Burket of Georgiana and the late Mr. and Mrs. James Allison Gaston of Georgiana.

He is a 1999 graduate of Auburn University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in management information systems. He is currently employed with a company in Southfield, Mich.

The wedding will be an event of May 6, 2000 at the First United Methodist Church of Georgiana. A reception will follow in the garden at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Travis Burket.

WCC Fine Arts Department to present Black Comedy

The Wallace Community College Fine Arts Department will present the one-act play, *Black Comedy*, a world famous farce by Peter Shaffer, April 25-29.

The curtain will rise each night at 7:30 in the Bence Theatre inside Wallace Hall on the Wallace campus in Dothan. Admission is free. This play contains mature subject matter. If you require accommodations under ADA, contact Dr. Jane McMurtry at 983-3521, ext. 287, two weeks prior to the performance.



Jarod Cole Lashley

Jarod Cole Lashley is one year old

Jarod Cole Lashley celebrated his first birthday on Nov. 16, 1999. He is the son of Jonathan and Melanie Lashley of the Ino Community. Cole has two older brothers, Hunter, age 5, and Cory, age 3. Cole's grandparents are Jimmy and Joyce Lashley of the Ino Community and Tom and Dephie Townsend of Opp.

**DEADLINE FOR
SOCIAL &
CHURCH
NEWS IS
MONDAY!!!!**



Miss Pearson & Mr. Faison

Pearson-Faison wedding planned for June 24th

Ms. Eva Mae Pearson of Brundidge announces the engagement of her daughter, Tracie Denise Pearson, to Stacy Faison, son of Mr. Tommy Mae Faison and the late Mr. Steven Faison of Elba.

The bride-elect is also the daughter of Mr. Oscar Davenport. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Davenport of Troy and the late Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Johnson of Brundage.

The future groom is the grandson of Mrs. Mert Mincey and the late Mr. Tom Mincey of Elba, the late Mrs. Fannie Goosby Fair of Elba and the late Mr. Edward Faison of Clinton, N.C.

Ms. Pearson and Mr. Faison graduated from Zion Chapel High School in Jack and Troy State University in Troy. Ms. Pearson completed the School of Social Work and is employed with the State DHR in Montgomery. Mr. Faison completed the School of Business (accounting) and is employed with a bank in Columbus, Ga.

The wedding is planned for June 24 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in Troy.

All friends are invited.

Because you have played such an important part in their lives please join us for a 50th Wedding Anniversary in honour of our parents Mr and Mrs. James Farris on Sunday, the ninth of April Two thousand at two-thirty in the afternoon The home of James and Mathalyn Farris The Farris Children

C.C. Association of Retired Teachers Support Personnel to meet

The Coffee County Association of Retired Teachers and Support Personnel will meet Tuesday, April 18, at 11 a.m. at Ryan's Steakhouse in Enterprise. The program will focus on Regions Bank and Investment Company.



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SPORTS

Views from...

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

The Mularz girls left Dad all alone at the house last week while they spent a few days at the beach, and while I will admit the peace and quiet was nice, I will also admit that I was mighty lonesome and more than a little bored. The girls' puppy and I are better friends than before, but there isn't much excitement to feeding the animals, cooking for one and watching TV. Maybe next year Dad will find somewhere to go besides the beach, and tag along with the rest of the bunch.

DUSTING OFF THE DESK...

ELBA TIGER BASEBALL - The Elba Tigers returned from spring break this week and jumped right into the midst of one of their toughest weeks of the season. The Tigers hosted 5A Carroll, of Ozark, on Monday, then hosted 6A Enterprise on Tuesday, and Friday will host Luverne in a key Area 3 contest. Elba saw its 6-2 record slide to 6-5 the week before the break with three straight losses. However, the Tigers have the pitching, hitting and senior leadership to bounce back and get back on track, and with a break or two should begin to add on the wins as they prepare for the state playoffs. The time is now for the turnaround to begin!

ELBA LADY TIGER SOFTBALL - The Elba Lady Tigers carried an 8-4 record into last week's spring break, but like their counterparts on the baseball field, had a very busy schedule waiting for them when they got back. The Lady Tigers hosted Samson on Tuesday, then will hit the field two more times this week as they travel to 5A Opp and 3A rival Luverne. Next week will find the Lady Tigers facing three more double-headers as they battle 5A Andalusia, Zion Chapel and 3A Luverne, and then next weekend Elba will compete in the Sweet Swingers Classic. That adds up to a minimum of 14 games over the next two weeks, and none of the games will be against easy opponents. It's time for the Lady Tigers to get an attitude - a winning attitude.

BASEBALL BLOWOUT SET FOR SATURDAY - The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will host its first annual Baseball Blowout on Saturday at Legion Field, and it looks like a day filled with excitement for everyone involved. All eight Dixie Minor teams and all eight Dixie Youth teams in the Elba leagues will play practice games throughout the day, while the department will also have the Diamond Skills program going on over at the Dixie Major Field. With a total of sixteen teams playing a total of eight games over a twelve hour period, and the players also taking part in the competition on the big field, it looks like Legion Field will be the place to be this weekend.

PLAYER DRAFTS HELD FOR ALL LEAGUES - The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation completed its player drafts last week in all boys baseball and girls softball leagues, with the coaches taking turns picking the players they wanted on their respective teams. The draft was supervised by the department; however, recreation employees took no part in the actual draft, and the teams were picked entirely by the coaches in the leagues. If you believe the teams in one particular league may not be equal in skills, it is because the coaches picked the players they wanted; and not due to any other factor. Hey, let the coaches work with the players, and let the players have fun. Remember, the coaches are for the players and the parents should support their children and the teams they are on. Play ball!

CHECK OUT THE NAMES - I get asked every year where I get the names for the teams in the girls softball leagues, and often get accused of making up the names. Okay, here is the truth - all the team names in the girls league are names of teams in Minor League Baseball. I checked out the logos on the internet, and tried to pick out some unusual, but catchy names, that also had unique mascots. I'll admit that some of the names are a little strange, but they are from Minor League Baseball, and names that the players will always remember.

NCAA TOURNAMENTS ARE EXCITING - I watched both nights of the NCAA semifinals for the men and women, and have to admit that all the games were exciting and fun to watch. I pulled for Tennessee and UConn in the women's games, while over in the men's semi I was pulling for Wisconsin and Florida. Three out of four ain't bad, and I am already trying to figure out how I can attend one of the Final Fours next year. I've been once before, and watching it on TV gave me the fever, once again.

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Eight games to be played

"Baseball Blowout" set for Saturday at Legion Field

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will host its first annual "Baseball Blowout" on Saturday, April 8, with all sixteen teams in the Elba Dixie Minor and Elba Dixie Youth Baseball Leagues taking part in the daylong activities at Legion Field.

The teams will participate in games beginning at 9:00 a.m., with the final game set for Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. All games will have a one and one-half hour time limit, and no pitcher will be allowed to pitch more than two innings.

While the games will be taking place on the Dixie Youth Field, the department will also be hosting the "Diamond Skills" competition on the Dixie Major Field. This competition is free for all boys ages 7-14, with winners earning the right to advance to sectional and national levels of competition.

Members of the Elba Recreation Board and volunteers will operate the concession stand for the event, with concessions including soft drinks, chips, candy, hamburgers, hot dogs and polish sausage dogs. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of a pitching machine for the

Host Luverne in key area battle Friday

Elba Tigers hunting wins as prep baseball season rolls on

The Elba Tigers carried a disappointing 6-5 record and a three-game losing streak into last week's spring break, but despite the double-season slump, the Tigers were still all alone atop the Class 3A, Area 3 standings with a 2-0 record, and had a number of players that had enjoyed an excellent start to the season.

Senior Brooks Creel and freshman Kyle English both batted .429

Elba Lady Tiger JV's close out softball season with 5-8 record

The Elba Junior Varsity softball team recently completed its season with a record of 5 wins and 8 losses.

The Lady Tiger JV's posted wins over New Brockton 18-8, 10-8 and 20-3; Luverne 15-12 and Samson 12-11, while suffering losses to Luverne 22-9, 11-8 and 11-7; and Home 3-4 and 8-1; and Samson 12-1, 21-19 and 14-13.

"The players all worked hard throughout the season," stated Coach David Collins, "and despite the less than spectacular record, it really was a good season for the all the girls. We kept a lot of girls on the team and made certain that they all got to play, and while that may have cost us a few wins, it gave the younger players experience for next season."

The Lady Tiger JV's included DeAnn Smith, Melissa Sanderson, Danae Ware, Stacy Chism, Devin Kilcrease, Samantha Williams, Jessica Danford, Michelle Carpenter, Ayonna Proctor, Kasey Grantham, Lacy Carlile, Leanne Suley, Hanna Martin, Kristen Barnes, Ashley Gibson, Mallory Allen, Lyndsay Lawford, Alison Smith, Greta Robinson and Emily Paul. Head coach was David Collins and assistant coaches were Ricky Carlile and Boyd English.

Men's Class C & D softball tourney to be held in Elba on April 21-22

A Men's Class C and D Softball Tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, at Hawkins-Williams Park, in Elba.

Entry fee is \$125 per team, and the deadline to enter is April 19. T-shirts and trophies will be awarded to the first place team, with trophies will be required to provide their own softballs. Teams are not allowed to wear steel cleats and teams must have matching jerseys.

To enter contact Tony Strickland (after five) 347-0286, Keith Parker (after five) 347-1751 or Web Watson 898-2305.

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girls softball league, and other related baseball and softball equipment.

There will be no admission charge for the days events; however, a hat will be passed around during each game for donations.

Following is the complete schedule for the games:

9:00 - D' Backs vs. Mets
10:30 - Astros vs. Mariners
12:00 - Sox vs. Royals
1:30 - Braves vs. Phillies
3:00 - Dodgers vs. Samson
4:30 - Cardinals vs. Kingston
6:00 - Pirates vs. Rays
7:30 - Marlins vs. Yankees

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will host its first "Diamond Skills" competition on Saturday, April 8, at the American Legion Baseball Complex, in Elba.

The national competition is sponsored by the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation, Toys "R" Us and Major League Baseball, and provides youngsters across the country an opportunity to participate in an exciting baseball competition.

The program gives boys and girls, ages 7-14, the chance to showcase their batting, fielding/throwing and base-running abilities, and is intended to encourage youth participation and emphasize the "FUN" element of baseball.

The Diamond Skills competition tests three of the most fundamental aspects of baseball - batting, fielding/throwing and base-running. The "Batting" will allow the youngsters to hit a ball off a stationary tee for distance and accuracy. In "Fielding/Throwing," the participant is thrown a ground ball, in which he/she must field and throw the fielded ball between two cones at home plate. The score is based on speed and accuracy. For "Base-Running," the youngster is timed, starting from second base, touching third and then home.

All the events are individually scored and converted into a total point score through the use of conversion tables, and each participant will compete in each of the three components of competition and

accumulate a total score based on his/her performance.

The Diamond Skills program is a national grassroots program with four levels of competition - local, sectional, team championship and national finals. All competition starts at the "Local" level, with all champions at the local level advancing to the "Sectional" competition. The first place all-around champions at the sectionals then advance to the "Team Championships," which are held in June at all 30 Major League Baseball parks. The final competition will take place at the 2000 All-Star game, set for Atlanta's Turner Field.

The Diamond Skills competition in Elba will take place on the Dixie Boys field throughout the day on Saturday, April 8, while Dixie Minor and Dixie Youth baseball teams are playing practice games on the Dixie Youth field. There is NO registration fee to take part in the competition, and all area boys and girls are encouraged to take part.

For more information call the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation at 897-6833.

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SPORTS

Baseball leagues release team rosters for 2000 season

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation has held player drafts for the teams involved in the 2000 Baseball Tee-Ball, Coach-Pitch Baseball, Dixie Minor, Dixie Youth and Dixie Boys Baseball Leagues.

Following are complete team rosters for the Elba teams in each league, with the exception of the Dixie Boys League, which was not available. Rosters for the teams from New Brockton and Zion Chapel were also not available.

TEE-BALL BASEBALL
PIRATES - Coach Mike Amison
Jon Ashley Amison, Darceon Bowers, Mason Davis, Antigenus Dixon, Billy Driggers, Jeremy Duncan, Chad Eddins, Brandon Goin, Griffin Jones, Sage Kelley, Jordan McDaniel, Keanthony Newson, Timothy Reeves, Brennen Schindler, Ashton Senn, Hunter Snow, Hayes Spicer, Denzell Thomas, Terry Yeezy.

RED SOX - Coach Charles Johnson
Cameron Arnold, Branson Bowers, Thomas Cole, Remington Cook, William Crenshaw, Ethan Deal, Brandon Dawson, Garrett Dunn, Harry Griffin, Austin Johnson, Jarrett Johnson, Sage Johnson, Kenneth McKee, Joseph Parrish, Tyler Walsh, Jordan Williams, Matthew Winters.

COACH-PITCH BASEBALL
RED SOX - Coach Scott Kelley
Kevin Allen, Jabari Cole, Leonard Cook, Ashton Davis, Jonathan Farmer, Jantzen Flowers, Connor Kelley, Gunnar McCollough, D.J. McKee, Alonzo Rodgers, Chace Saults.

ROCKIES - Coach David Barnes
Johnathan Bryant, Jason Cooper, Gage Craig, Robby Forbes, Dylan Garner, Chance Gosby, Sebastian Haddaway, Cameron Johnson, Joshua Maddox, Jesse Stokes, Devon Tillis, Jason Walker.

BLUE JAYS - Coach Wayne Jackson
Brandon Byrd, Marcus Caldwell, Joseph Coxwell, Merrill Curran, Devin Jackson, Josh Johnson, Kyle Pope, Sandarius Reed, Kendrick Robertson, Xavier Rodgers, Michael Spurlin.

RAVENS - Coach Milton Allen
Jason Allen, Daniel Bannin, Tyron Burks, Taylor Cotton, Dillon Duncan, Jacob Pettie, Gilbert Petty, Ben Pope, Ryan Pope, Keith Rodgers, Dylan Tysinger.

DIXIE MINOR BASEBALL
ASTROS - Coach Keith Parker
Davenport Adams, Cody Arnold, Ethan Dodd, Gavin Flowers, Martellus Foster, Andrew Head, Michael Jackson, Brock Lambert.

Let's Go... Outdoors with Ben
by Ben Norman, Sports Columnist

Campfires, trotlines and poly wogs

I know of no better relaxation than sitting around a crackling campfire near the waters edge on a small river or lake during the early spring. A large iron skillet filled with bearn, channel cats or poly wogs (that's a small catfish or mud cat) sizzling on the open fire will make you drool in your shirt pocket as you wait for them to cook. The aroma from the fish, hushpuppies, and fries drifting across the swamp alerts the night creatures that they have guests. Owls hoot, crickets sing, and cootes howl while the smell of fresh dogwood blooms drifts into camp to create a unique "atmosphere" that will never be found in even the fanciest restaurant.

Night fishing for catfish combined with overnight camping makes an ideal outing for the whole family. The tackle required for making set poles is inexpensive and easy to assemble. A No. 2 hook and a lead sinker attached to a 6 to 8 foot line tied to a limber pole cut from native vegetation is all you need to fish a trotline, especially at night.

Bait for catfish is limited only by one's imagination. During my teen years we fished with the abundant salamander or "puppy dog" as we called them. It's been a long time since I've even seen one. You would probably need a doctorate in salamanderology just to know which ones are protected today. Catfish are excellent catfish bait and are still relatively easy to seine or rake from sloughs and large mud puddles.

Many other baits such as Catfish Chum, various shrimp, rained cheese, chicken and beef liver, cut mullet, worms, shrimp, marshmallows, oatmeal balls, shiners, and a host of other baits will catch cats.

Smaller streams will usually produce channel cats, mud cats, and speckled cats. The blue cat and large yellow cats are more often caught in the larger rivers and impoundments.

Campers planning to have fish for supper should get started early. Putting out set poles and trotlines around lunchtime will often produce enough fish for the evening meal. Fishing for bearn and red bellies late in the evening will add to the pot. What if they are not biting, you say. It never hurts to put in a few steaks, chops, or hamburger patties-just in case.

A pot of steaming coffee made over glowing coals and shared with good friends after a delicious catfish supper makes an ideal nightcap. Now you can crawl into your sleeping bag and let the night creatures sing you a lullaby.

RED SOX - Coach Charles Johnson
Cameron Arnold, Branson Bowers, Thomas Cole, Remington Cook, William Crenshaw, Ethan Deal, Brandon Dawson, Garrett Dunn, Harry Griffin, Austin Johnson, Jarrett Johnson, Sage Johnson, Kenneth McKee, Joseph Parrish, Tyler Walsh, Jordan Williams, Matthew Winters.

COACH-PITCH BASEBALL
RED SOX - Coach Scott Kelley
Kevin Allen, Jabari Cole, Leonard Cook, Ashton Davis, Jonathan Farmer, Jantzen Flowers, Connor Kelley, Gunnar McCollough, D.J. McKee, Alonzo Rodgers, Chace Saults.

ROCKIES - Coach David Barnes
Johnathan Bryant, Jason Cooper, Gage Craig, Robby Forbes, Dylan Garner, Chance Gosby, Sebastian Haddaway, Cameron Johnson, Joshua Maddox, Jesse Stokes, Devon Tillis, Jason Walker.

BLUE JAYS - Coach Wayne Jackson
Brandon Byrd, Marcus Caldwell, Joseph Coxwell, Merrill Curran, Devin Jackson, Josh Johnson, Kyle Pope, Sandarius Reed, Kendrick Robertson, Xavier Rodgers, Michael Spurlin.

RAVENS - Coach Milton Allen
Jason Allen, Daniel Bannin, Tyron Burks, Taylor Cotton, Dillon Duncan, Jacob Pettie, Gilbert Petty, Ben Pope, Ryan Pope, Keith Rodgers, Dylan Tysinger.

DIXIE MINOR BASEBALL
ASTROS - Coach Keith Parker
Davenport Adams, Cody Arnold, Ethan Dodd, Gavin Flowers, Martellus Foster, Andrew Head, Michael Jackson, Brock Lambert.

Let's Go... Outdoors with Ben
by Ben Norman, Sports Columnist

Campfires, trotlines and poly wogs

Graham Morrow, Corey Parker, Don Rhoades, Donnie Stinson.

CARDINALS - Coach Doug Martin
Matthew Brunson, Griffin Cash, Richard Cooks, Aaron Drewery, Matthew Gibson, Aaron Hareless, Cordelle Hooks, John Jared, Trey Martin, Martin McCormick, Jason Mitchell, Justin Pike.

DIAMONDBACKS - Coach Mike Sanders
Jamison Baker, Matthew Brunson, Kendall Chappell, Drew Ellis, Bobby Hudson, Dylan McCollough, Austin Parrish, Robert Paul, Rod Rider, Ashley Sanders, Bradley Wilson.

DODGERS - Coach Keith Rodgers

State issues advisories on consumption of area fish

An analysis of fish samples collected from water bodies throughout the state by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management during the fall of 1999 found the quality of water has improved over the past year, with the improvement reflected by the lower levels of contaminants in the fish sampled.

Following is the complete list of fish consumption advisories:

* Choccolocco Creek - entire length of creek from south of oxford to Logan Martin Lake - do not consume any fish.

* Cold Creek Swamp - from confluence of Cold Creek with the Mobile River west through the swamp - do not consume any fish.

* Coosa River between Alabama-Georgia state line and Weiss Dam - limited consumption of catfish over one pound.

* Coosa River between Neely Dam and Riverside - limited consumption of catfish over one pound.

* Coosa River between Riverside and Vincent, including Logan Martin Reservoir - do not consume any fish.

* Tombigbee River - Olin Basin at river mile 60.5 - do not consume any largemouth bass and channel catfish.

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Trey Belcher, Quenton Caldwell, Will Gray, Donnie Hay, Jordan McBride, Cameron Rodgers, Robbie Thrash, Donta Tillis, Dimetrio Tyson, Blake Qualls, Justin Winters.

DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL
MARLINS - Coach Mickey McCollough
Duke Carr, Stephen Driggers, Jacob Forbes, Chase Graham, Trey Grantham, Adam Henderson, Timothy Jackson, Ryan McCollough, Michael Messer, Dustin Rhoades, Juan Starks, Brad Sullivan.

ROYALS - Coach A.R. Williams
Brian Blair, Chase Boutwell, Clint Bradshaw, William Carpenter, Leroy Fleming, Mason Gully, Chafin Johnson, Jason Johnson, Lewis Johnson, Matthew Snell, LaRay Williams, Alan Willis.

PHILLIES - Coach Tony Calhoun
Robert Allen, Blake Berry, Chase Boutwell, Nathan Calhoun, Ryan Copeland, Nathan Flowers, Joshua Hudson, Hunter McGuire, Cory Miller, Drew Parker, Kevin Parks, Anton Tills, Zachary Tyler.

Girls softball leagues release team rosters for Elba teams

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation has completed its player drafts for the 2000 Girls Softball League season. Following are complete team rosters for the teams in Tee-Ball Softball, Coach-Pitch Softball, 10 and Under Softball and 12 and Under Softball. Rosters for the 16 and Under League and rosters for the teams from New Brockton were not available.

CLIPPERS - Coach Christie Williams
Kendall Cole, Audrey Deal, Salina Duncan, Peyton Dunn, Ashley Goin, Kierra Hammonds, Anna Neal, Shambria Thomas, Amber Walker, Jasmine Walker, Brinley Williams, Faith Yohn.

BLUE SOX - Coach Kim Bane
Sarah Banc, Jalia Bonham, Isabell Carpenter, Bailey Daugherty, Keely Daugherty, Cordesia Hooks, Verlingqua Hooks, Brittany Hudson, Chelsea Spann, Selina Stokes.

COACH-PITCH SOFTBALL

RAYSOX - Coach Tonya Creel
BreAnn Austin, Taylor Creel, Courtney Driggers, Amanda Geddings, Amber Hudson, Catherine Irwin, Brianna Jackson, Jessica Orr, Brittany Page, Courtney Parrish, Ashley Snell, Mercedes Stevens.

BUZZ - Coach Amber Norris
Meredith Brunson, Katelyn Calhoun, Lindsey Carnley, Ashley Cooks, Brittany Hay, Paige Jones, Jo-Lo McBride, Molly McMillan, Rachel Morrow, Kayla Parks, Courtney Richardson, Brianna Rogers, Courtney Rugg.

10 AND UNDER SOFTBALL

PAWSOX - Coach Ricky Mularz
Megan Anderson, Marissa Bludworth, Tiffany Bryan, Brandy Caldwell, Amber Coleman, Brittany Davis, Nikki Edwards, April Findore, Shamba Jones, Cortlin Lee, Hannah Manning, Melanie Mularz, Krystan Parker, Heather Reeves, Tierney Starks, Megan Sullivan, Alyssa Walden.

RIVER CATS - Coach Marietta Carpenter
Shelby Adcock, Ashley Bailey, Whitney Bailey, Dana Calhoun, Ashley Carpenter, Kishanna Cole, Kelley Corder, Cheshire Cross, Erica Daniels, Emily Driggers, Brittany Johnson, Kayla Kysar, Angela Loyola, Connie Moore, Kierra Robertson, Candace Smith, Brandi Talley, Quyesha Terry, Maisie Thomas, Rymeshia Williams.

12 AND UNDER SOFTBALL

CROCS - Coach Jim McCormick
Arrian Bowers, Kayla Byrd, Tiffany Crawford, Leigh-Anna Flowers, Kayla Kelley, Lyndsay Lawford, Whitney Lawford, Tesha Lee, Michelle Matices, Elena McCormick, Stacey Mitchell, Becky Stinson, Ashleigh Waddall, Jene Wilson, Shawanna Wright.

SPINNERS - Coach Mike Carley
Mallory Allen, Jennifer Barlow, Ashley Carnley, Sherria Daniels, Amanda Henderson, Keri Hobbs, Kayla Homyak, Casey Medlock, Gale Olson, Amanda Pope, Summer Stricklin, Haley Stinson, Kendall Stinson, Rae Walker, Shawda Whitfield.

OUTDOORS SPOTLIGHT ON "FISHING"

Don Chapman, of Jack, made this catch while fishing on March 15 at the Coffee County Lake. His catch included 2 shellcracker that weighed in at one pound, 4 bass that weighed in at six

Community News

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EHS Band Day 2000 planned for Saturday, April 15th

Elba Band Boosters have planned a fun-filled and entertaining day for all ages. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, on the Court-house Square. Activities for Band Day 2000 include entertainment, arts and crafts, carnival games, and Bingo. Coca-Cola will be providing a concession wagon where Elba Band Boosters will be selling drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs and other concessions. Several prominent citizens will be locked up on the square until they are able to post their bail of \$100 each. To add to the day's attractions, many area merchants have donated items to be

MacArthur State Technical College announces Summer Registration

MacArthur State Technical College announces the registration schedule for Summer Term. Applicants who register according to the following schedule will have time to take placement tests as well as complete financial aid applications which must be approved by the Financial Aid Office by May 9, the first day of classes.

Registration for diploma programs will be held April 7 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. These programs include Auto Body, Auto Mechanics, Barbering, Carpentry and Cabinetmaking, Cosmetology, Diesel Mechanics, Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Upholstery and Welding.

April 21 is the registration day for degree programs. Students may register from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for Accounting, Communication Electronics, Computer Science, Drafting, Industrial Electricity and Industrial Electronics.

Applicants who cannot register according to this schedule may visit the Registrar's Office at 1708 North Main Street, Opp, Ala., in order to schedule an alternate time or may request information by calling 493-

3573, ext. 233 or 260.

New students must take the COMPASS placement test prior to registration. The test will be administered at 8 a.m. each Friday through May 5. There is no fee for the test. All new students are also required to attend Orientation on May 8 in the Student Center from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MacArthur State Technical College offers continuing education evening courses. These non-credit courses are designed especially for professional development. Individuals may register for these courses between April 7 and the first class meeting. Microsoft Excel will meet on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5 until 7:40 p.m. The course will begin May 9 and end June 22.

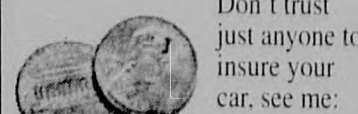
Exploring the Internet begins June 27 and ends August 15. Meeting hours are Tuesday nights from 5 until 7:40 p.m.

PC Applications is a beginner course introducing users to computer applications in a business-oriented environment. The class begins May 15 and ends August 14. Meeting hours are on Monday nights from 5 until 7:40 p.m.

Habitat For Humanity Ground Breaking Banquet set for Saturday, April 8th

Habitat For Humanity "Ground Breaking Banquet" will be Saturday, April 8, at 7 p.m. The banquet will be held at Elba High School. Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased at the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Chamber of Commerce or from any board member. For more information, call Charlene Goolsby at 347-2866 or Daniel Stephens at 897-5077.

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I - READY TO RUMBLE (PG-13)

M-F 7&9:10 - S&S 2:49-10

II - THE SKULLS (PG-13)

M-F 7&9:10 - S&S 2:49-10

Westgate Center

III - THE ROAD TO EL DORADO (PG)

M-F 7:00s - S&S 2&7

AMERICAN BEAUTY (R)

M-F 9:00s - S&S 9:00 only

IV - ROMEO MUST DIE (R)

M-F 7&9:10 - S&S 2:49-10

College Cinema • College Plaza

I - RULES OF ENGAGEMENT (R)

M-F 7&9:30 - S&S 2:49-30

"No Passes, No Wed. Night Disc.

II - ERIN BROCKOVICH (R)

M-F 7&9:30 - S&S 2:49-30

III - RETURN TO ME (PG)

M-F 7:15&9:30 - S&S 2:15&9:30

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Stay Connected to Your Co-op

Don't miss the CEC Annual Membership Meeting on April 6



Thursday, April 6

COVINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Andalusia Kiwanis Community Center

Registration — 3 p.m.

Entertainment — 5:30 p.m.

Business Session — 7 p.m.

You Could Win These Major Prizes

In addition to six major prizes, about 30 other gifts will be awarded. Registered Covington Electric Cooperative members will receive a free stadium cushion and other useful gifts. Prizes will be awarded immediately following the business session. Members must be present to win any of the six major prizes. For complete rules and regulations, please see the March issue of *Alabama Living* magazine.



The grand prize at the CEC Annual Membership Meeting is pictured above. A 1991 Dodge Ram 150 pick-up truck will be given away to one lucky CEC member at the annual meeting.

Family Entertainment



Tony Gore & Majesty

Two gospel music groups will entertain at the CEC Annual Membership Meeting on April 6.



The Rhythm Masters



CEC employee Susie Adams shows the other major prizes to be given away April 6. Prizes include a microwave oven, VCR, \$150 cash, electric grill with rotisserie and a 25-inch TV.

Call 222-4121, 1-800-239-4121 or visit our web site at www.cov-elect.com for more information about the 2000 CEC Annual Membership Meeting.



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DRIVER - Solos and teams needed now! Lease purchase a 1999-2000 model. \$50,000 plus 10% off prompt mail dispatch. 12/14 day. Top teams earned \$150,000 plus in 1998. Regional dispatch available. 25 years old. 2 years OTR. Good MVR. Call 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. 1-800-626-4543 (R)

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NEED SOMEONE TO SIT with elderly couple. Must be available 7 days a week. Victoria Community. Call 897-8780. 4-6-1p

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YARD SALE - Friday, Saturday April 7 & 8, 8:00 A.M. Until 11:00 A.M. Troy Highway. 4-6-1p

YARD SALE - SAT. APRIL 8th 7:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Cedar lane Drive - Troy Hwy. Joyce Miller's Home. Lots of Good Stuff. 3 Families. Call 1-800-856-9069. 4-6-1p

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Community News

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<p>New Listing • Country Home w/3BR - Central H&C • Pecan Trees • New 10x20 Storage Bldg. 1 AC +/- • \$43,500</p>	<p>1027 Sunset Blvd. • 2,804 Sq. ft. • 1.1 AC +/- • 3BR - 2 Baths • Brick Home, Deck, Detached Apartment, Dbl. Garage, Hardwood Floors, Formal LR & DR, Game Room, Central H&C • \$85,900</p>
<p>976 Sunset Blvd. • 3BR - 2 Bath Brick Home • Storage Bldgs. • Quite Neighborhood • \$39,900</p>	<p>1133 Neil Grantham Dr. • 3BR - 1 Bath • Alum. Siding • Nice Starter or Retirement Home • \$34,900</p>
<p>933 Winston St. • 1,904 Sq. Ft. 3BR - 3 Bath • Dbl. Car Garage & Deck • 15x30 Stor- age Bldg. • \$84,900</p>	<p>Country Road 349 • 1991 Lib- erty 14x70 Mobile Home on 1/2 Acre Lot • 3BR - 1 Bath • \$19,500</p>
<p>Country Home • 2BR Home on 7.5 Acres • Located on Co. Rd. 239 • \$74,900</p>	<p>Country Home • 1 AC +/- Completely Remodeled 2BR - 1 Bath • Freshly painted inter- ior • New Carpet, Vinyl, light fixtures & Ceiling Fans • Real Bargain • \$34,900</p>
<p>Remodeled 987 Morrow 3 BR - 2 Bath • \$47,900</p>	<p>2351 Hickman Ave. • 1470 Sq. ft. Brick home • Nice Storage Bldg. • This Property Is Immaculate!! \$57,900 \$49,900</p>
<p>New Home • On 5.5 AC Just Outside Elba City limits • 3BR - 2 Bath w/Ceramic Tile • Walk-In Master Closet • Beautiful White Cabinets</p>	<p>Brantley, AL • 101 Sasser St. • Brick Home w/3BR • 12x20 Deck • Laundry Room, Stor- age Bldg. & Playhouse \$43,900 \$39,900</p>
<p>Brookdale Subdivision - 1149 Oak Street • 3BR Brick Home • Never Flooded! \$52,900</p>	<p>18 AC +/- Commercial Property • Located On AL Hwy. 166 w/Large 3BR - 2 Bath Brick Home</p>
<p>Great Weekend Getaway - Perfect For Fishing & Ski- ing • Lot & Mobile Home at Gantt Lake on an 89 ft x 250 ft lot • 1975 Mobile Home • 2BR, 1 Bath • Access to Boat Ramp & Pier. \$22,900</p>	<p>CO. RD. 239 • 61 AC w/27 AC in Pasture & 34 AC in Planted Pines • 1 AC pond \$98,500</p>
<p>REDUCED! REDUCED! • Two 12- AC Parcels • Co. Rd. 349 • Parcel #1 Reduced To \$1250/AC - parcel #2 Reduced To \$1200/AC</p>	<p>22 AC HORSE FARM • Near New Brookton • Fenced • Horse barn • storage/shop bldg. • 2000 Sq. Ft. Brick Home w/Gunite Pool</p>

Calico Fort Arts & Crafts Fair set for April 15 and 16

The tantalizing aroma of hickory and pine, the smell of candles and herbs, the distant sound of the Indian drums and merry chatter and laughter... have all become a permanent part of Calico Fort Arts and Crafts Fair in Fort Deposit, Alabama.

This twenty-ninth annual Calico Fort is planned to be bigger and better than ever. Scheduled for April 15 and 16, visitors of every age will find something to see, to

buy, to learn and to enjoy.

Exhibitors, approximately 200 from ten states including the Carolinas, Georgia, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Mississippi, New York, Louisiana, Florida, and every part of Alabama, have been specially selected to represent the best artisans and craftsmen in their respective areas.

One can expect to find hand-sewn, painted clothing, wood works, leather goods, rattlesnake skin accessories, stained and beveled glass, pottery, garden statuary, wind chimes, toys of every sort, jewelry designers, pine needle and basket weaving, rockers, chairs, furniture in cypress, twig and vine, bird houses, oil, pen & ink and pastel art and plants of all kinds.

Special attractions include blacksmiths demonstrating their talents, an exhibitor who will demonstrate the fine art of producing delicious home-made ice cream and Elvin King with his chain saw carvings.

Added this year will be a special Children's Area which will include pony rides, train rides, a petting zoo, face painting, Calico balloons, hermit crabs and other exhibitors whose talents are tempting to the

little ones. In this area, the young will even have the opportunity to really pan for gold.

Food, food and more food will be a special treat as the men and women of Fort Deposit prepare tons of chicken and pork barbecue, hot dogs, hamburgers and sweet confections of every sort.

Continuous entertainment is always present in the Fort's natural amphitheater. Featured attractions will include The Southern Comfort Blue Grass Band, the Persimmon Creek Cloggers, Haley Spates, a Christian music vocalist, the Fort Deposit School of Dance performing their routines and International Miss performances scheduled during the two-day event.

Fort Deposit is located thirty miles south of Montgomery and fifteen miles north of Greenville, just off I-65. Signs will mark the route from the Interstate into the Fort. Gates are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day and admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children.

Make plans now to join in the fun of the twenty-ninth annual event on Saturday and Sunday, April 15 and 16.



Peaches Jackson (left) with Lee E. Dumas (right), manager, was named the client with the most attended days in Adult Day Care. She recently was awarded recognition with a certificate of appreciation.

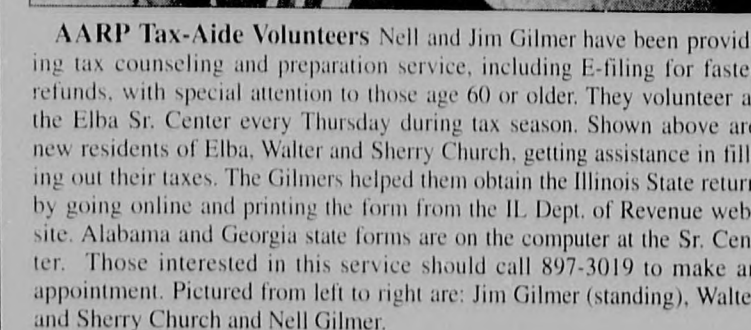
Salutell

National Security's Relay for Life team to sponsor Easter Egg Hunt

National Security's Relay for Life team is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15, from 10-11 a.m. The egg hunt will take place at the Veterans Memorial Park area with a \$2 charge per child. There will be two age divisions for ages toddler to 10 years of age. Prizes for the child finding the golden egg and the child with the most eggs. Surprises for each child participating. Hot dogs and drinks will be for sale. In case of rain, the egg hunt will be canceled. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Sausage Festival News

For those who love sausage, the City of Elba will definitely be the place to be on Saturday, May 13, as the second annual Old Time County Fair and Sausage Festival will be held. The festival's planning committee is hard at work making plans to ensure a day of fun and food. So, mark those calendars now and look for more details in upcoming issues of The Elba Clipper as the date draws near.



AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers Nell and Jim Gilmer have been providing tax counseling and preparation services, including E-filing for faster refunds, with special attention to those age 60 or older. They volunteer at the Elba Jr. Center every Thursday during tax season. Shown above are new residents of Elba, Walter and Sherry Church, getting assistance in filling out their taxes. The Gilmers helped them obtain the Illinois State return by going online and printing the form from the IL Dept. of Revenue website. Alabama and Georgia state forms are on the computer at the Sr. Center. Those interested in this service should call 897-3019 to make an appointment. Pictured from left to right are: Jim Gilmer (standing), Walter and Sherry Church and Nell Gilmer.

NEWS FROM OUR MILITARY FOLKS

Army Pvt. James M. Estes has entered basic military training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Alice D. and Mike E. Estes of 392 County Road 731.

Parker participated in an exercise termed "Operation New Horizons 2000" in El Salvador. As part of the 191st Maintenance Company, normally assigned in Birmingham, the U.S. Army Reserve soldiers provided maintenance support at Comolapa Air Base, El Salvador. They are part of a joint exercise that provides humanitarian support to this Central American country.

Army Reserve Sgt. Joseph

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The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 44

50 Cents

Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Jack teenager dies in one-car crash

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

Tragedy struck in Coffee County last Saturday night, April 8, 2000, when a teenage girl was killed in a single-car accident.

Shortly before 11:00 p.m., Coffee County deputies were attempting to stop a vehicle driven by Ms. Kacy Lee Clark for a traffic offense. Ms. Clark's vehicle failed to yield to the deputies and attempted to elude them.

The vehicle Ms. Clark was driving was traveling south on Coffee County Road 209 when she apparently lost control causing the vehicle to crash. Ms. Clark was taken by air ambulance from the scene of the crash to Southeast Medical Center where she died Sunday, April 9, from injuries sustained in the crash.

The incident originated on AL Hwy. 125 when the deputies, on routine patrol, were traveling north on Hwy. 125 north of AL Hwy. 167. They met the Clark vehicle traveling south at a high rate of speed and clocked it with radar at better than 80 miles per hour.

The deputy, in a highly visible marked (reflective markings) sheriff's cruiser with top mounted blue lights, flashed his top lights (blue lights) in an attempt to slow the speeding car. There have been false reports that the deputies were on an unmarked car. When it appeared that the car made no attempt to slow, they turned and began pursuit of the car south on 125.



Kacy Lee Clark

When the vehicle driven by Clark reached the 125/167 intersection, it turned north and accelerated. The deputy, with blue light flashing and siren sounding, attempted to overtake and stop the speeding vehicle. He notified the sheriff's department dispatcher to radio Pike County to the north and alert them as to the situation that he was 10-100 (police code for pursuit of a vehicle) approaching speeds of 100 miles per hour.

Approximately three miles north of the 167/125 intersection, the speeding car attempted to turn west on Co. Rd. 201 but failed to make the turn. According to radio traffic, the deputy attempted to block the path of the vehicle, but the Clark vehicle got by the patrol car and reversed its direction of travel. It

headed back south on 167 toward the 167/125 intersection - again at a high rate of speed.

Just over a mile south, the Clark vehicle veered right off 167 onto Co. Rd. 209 and after traveling between 1 to 2 miles, left the roadway and overturned several times.

Reportedly, Ms. Clark was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the vehicle.

Preliminary results of the autopsy performed on Ms. Clark listed the cause of death as blunt force trauma. Also, the preliminary testing of the blood sample taken (standard procedure) from Ms. Clark did not indicate the involvement of drugs or alcohol in the incident.

It should be noted also that blood was drawn from the deputy driving the pursuit car in accordance with department policy.

The accident is being investigated by the 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office, the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences.

Ms. Clark was sixteen and a resident of Jack, Ala. She was a tenth grader at Zion Chapel High School where administrators say she was a popular student involved in many extracurricular and athletic activities. Kacy was a trumpet soloist with the Zion Chapel Rebel Band.

(Please see the obituary section on page 2 for additional family details on Kacy Lee Clark.)



Vehicle which Kacy Clark was driving at the time of the fatal crash

\$1.6 million Elba Nursing Home expansion and renovation project announced

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Drexel Cook, chairman of the Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home, said Tuesday that a contract has been signed for a \$1,673,000 expansion and renovation of the nursing home. The contract, which was signed the last of March, also includes some remodeling work at



Tim McNamara

the hospital. Work is expected to get underway within a few days. Successful bidder, Don Lewis Construction Co. of Dothan, was holding preconstruction conferences in Elba with subcontractors on Tuesday morning of this week. Completion of the project is scheduled for March 15, 2001.

Architects for the project are Waid McNamara Parrish Architecture of Dothan.

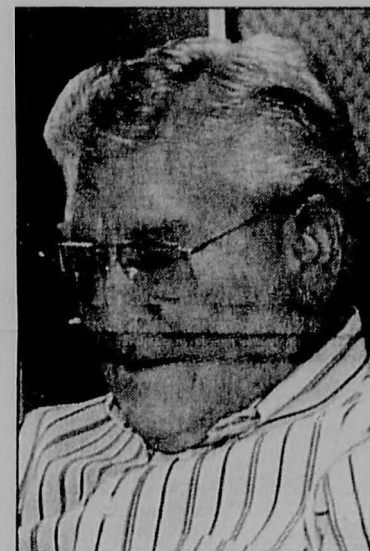
Both Cook and architect Tim McNamara expressed positive attitudes about getting a good bid on the construction and on getting a good contractor to do the work. Cook said that the project will be funded in two ways. First, the hos-

pital board has been working for several years to establish a capital reserve fund and this money will pay a large part of the cost. Arrangements have been made to borrow the balance of the needed funds which will be repaid from normal operating income over the term of the loan.

A 24-bed wing will be added to the nursing home. The new wing will include a new front entrance, new lobby with nursing station and a drive-under canopy at the new front lobby. It will be added at the front of the existing facility, and when completed there will be an enclosed open courtyard between the newly constructed wing and the existing front door of the nursing home. The parking spaces lost here will be added at the north end of the building.

Administrator Ellen Briley said the courtyard will be landscaped and fully developed to give maximum benefit and usage to nursing home residents.

The expansion will only net the nursing home ten additional semi-private beds, giving the facility a total capacity of housing 111 residents. Some existing rooms will be lost where the new wing joins the existing facility and additional rooms inside the facility will be converted to a recreation/activity room and offices. Briley explained that under present Alabama law the nursing home is allowed to add 10% of existing beds without getting a certificate of need from the state governing authority. With the present 101 beds, this expansion



Drexel Cook

fits into that window of 10%. The nursing home is normally full and maintains a waiting list of local citizens needing the care available at the facility.

Another part of the project will be upgrading the mechanical system throughout the nursing home to include individual heating and cooling units in each room. The old original system required all heating (or cooling) to be shut down and supply pipes drained before any cooling (or heating) unit could be started. When weather changed suddenly, or some person required more heating or cooling than others, there was a problem with no immediate solution. The system

Please See EGH&NH Page 3

Robert Stephens seeking re-election to District Three Seat on County Commission

Robert G. Stephens, currently serving as a member of the Coffee County Commission, made it official on qualifying day, March 7, that he would seek re-election to the Commission from District 3.

Stephens, a lifelong resident of Coffee County, is a veteran of World War II, having served four years in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot, including 18 months overseas. He saw action in Italy with the 15th Air Force flying combat missions over Europe.

He is a retired businessman and farmer and is a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Elba. He is a member of the Lions Club, Alabama Cattlemen Association, American Legion, VFW, and Alabama Farmers Federation.

He serves as a director of The Southeast Regional Planning and Development Board, this being the agency handling grants for cities and counties in this area. Coffee County and its cities and towns have been able to receive millions of dollars in grants through assistance of this board.

He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Southern Alabama



Regional Council for the Aging which is responsible for the Senior Citizens Centers and furnishes money and meals for the operation of this program.

"I have worked hard for the citizens of District 3, as well as all of the citizens of Coffee County during the years that I have served on this board."

Please See STEPHENS Page 3

Dean Blair announces candidacy for County Commission District One Seat

Dean Blair announced his candidacy for the office of County Commissioner District 1 in the upcoming election. "I am excited about the election and look forward to serving the citizens of Coffee County if elected," said Blair.

Blair, 34, is a resident of the Basin Community in southwest Coffee County. He is a 1983 graduate of Elba High School and attended Enterprise State Junior College and Troy State University. He is a 1988 graduate of the Southwest Alabama Police Academy. He was formerly employed as a correctional officer and was later promoted to deputy sheriff with the Coffee County Sheriff's Office. Blair currently is employed with the City of Elba Police Department as the D.A.R.E. Officer for the Elba City Schools. In 1992, he helped implement the first D.A.R.E. Program in the Elba City School System. His accomplishments include being named 1991 Elba Police Officer of the Year, receiving a commendation for heroism from the Governor's Office and Senate of the State of Alabama during the 1998 flood, being a member and serving as the



Blair is married to Melonice Boland Blair who is employed by Dorsey Trailers, Inc. as an administrator.

Please See BLAIR Page 3

Area Happenings

Chancellor-Moses To Wed
 April 29 At Zion Chapel

Elba Tiger Pitcher Looks
 For Sign From Catcher

Myrlene Martin
 Wise Vanderbilt Student Early 1930s